

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, MA

for the degree of Master of Arts in Comparative Literature

Note that the Program does not admit students to a terminal MA program any longer.

The candidate must demonstrate a competency in at least two foreign languages as well as in English. Latin is required for students specializing in European and/or American literatures before 1800. Competence in the languages offered is measured either by the successful completion of one advanced course in the literature of each of the languages chosen or by passing an examination administered by the program in comparative literature with the assistance of an expert in the language concerned. This choice is intended to provide for languages that may not be taught in regular departments.

The Program in Comparative & World Literature offers graduate courses leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree, and is designed to provide a systematic study of subjects and problems common to several literatures. Its purpose is to enable students who have varied linguistic competence and preparation to explore the theory of literature and criticism; the interrelations of several literatures; the main currents, periods, and movements in literary history; the development of literary themes and types; and the relations between literature and the other arts. Students are not normally admitted to a terminal master's degree program.

Admission

A student entering the program should have an undergraduate major in Comparative Literature, English, the classics, or a foreign language. Majors in history and philosophy or other humanistic areas that present suitable linguistic and literary competence may also be granted admission by the Admissions Committee. Students entering with a recognized Masters degree from another university or from another department of this University have the option of taking the program's regular Master of Arts examination at the end of the first year as a qualifying test. For all other students, the Master of Arts examination taken at the end of the second year will function as the qualifying test to proceed to stage two of the PhD program.

Applicants should apply online (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/comparative-literature-ma/www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>), submit a statement of purpose, three letters of recommendation and a writing sample.

Original transcripts showing all undergraduate and graduate work completed should be sent to SLCL Graduate Student Services, 3070 Foreign Languages Bldg., 707 S. Mathews Ave., Urbana, IL 61801. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required and should be submitted to institution code 1836. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and must score at least 105 on the internet-based test (iBT); they must also pass the speaking sub-section of the iBT (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/comparative-literature-ma/www.grad.illinois.edu/Admissions/instructions/04c/>) with a minimum score of 24. Applications are accepted for fall admission

only. Application questions may be directed to SLCL Graduate Student Services (slclgradservices@illinois.edu).

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program. Non-native English speakers must first pass a test of their oral English ability (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/comparative-literature-ma/www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm>).

Financial Aid

The Program aims to support all graduate students for five years through a combination of fellowships, teaching, and other means, but support is always contingent on the student making timely progress to the degree. Such progress is measured by course load, taking exams on time, grades, and other factors.

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The candidate must complete a minimum of 32 gh of credit, including two courses in the theory of literature (CWL 501 and CWL 502), and two seminars in comparative literature selected from CWL 551, CWL 561, CWL 571, and CWL 581. At least 12 of the other 16 gh should be taken in two or three national literatures in a distribution approved by the adviser. The candidate must pass a written examination based on a reading list, which is designed to test knowledge of literary history as well as ability to interpret a literary or critical text.

For additional details and requirements refer to the department's graduate handbook (http://www.complit.illinois.edu/Graduate_files/Grad%20Handbook.pdf) and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/>).

Code	Title	Hours
CWL 501 & CWL 502	Theory of Literature and Methods of Comparative Lit	8
Select two of the following:		8
CWL 551	Seminar Lit Movements	
CWL 561	Seminar Genres - Forms	
CWL 571	Seminar in Literary Relations	
CWL 581	Seminar Lit Themes	
One or two courses in the major literature		4-8
At least one course in the minor literature		4
One or two courses from the above categories. (A student may take one course in a non-literary field that will provide cultural and historical contexts for the study of the student's literatures.)		4-8
Total Hours		32

Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
The candidate must pass a written examination based on a reading list, which is designed to test knowledge of literary history as well as ability to interpret a literary or critical text.	

Minimum 500-level Hours Required 20

Overall:

Minimum GPA: 3.25

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1. **Linguistic Mastery:** Mastery of at least three foreign languages (one of which can be English) and a research language.
 2. **Comparative and Cross-Cultural Analysis:** Ability to analyze problems and questions that cut across national, linguistic, and cultural lines.
 3. **Literary / Critical Theory:** Demonstration of mastery of major fields of theoretical inquiry current in the discipline, such as Marxism, psychoanalysis, post-structuralism, feminism / queer studies, post-colonialism.
 4. **Teaching experience:** Ability to teach a wide range of literary topics; put together syllabi, tests, written assignments, and lectures. Familiarity with current trends in pedagogy for language, literature, and culture. Depending on the area of specialization, teaching in the target language or in the Rhetoric program.
 5. **Professionalization:** Completion of CWL 582 (Proseminar), including learning to give talks, making a syllabus, converting seminar papers into conference presentations and journal articles, learning to write book reviews, learning to write cover letters, fellowship applications, and grant applications. Preparation for the academic job market in literary studies and other allied fields. Preparation for relevant non-academic jobs, including editing and publishing, museum work, journalism, artistic and creative careers.

Graduate Degree Programs in Comparative Literature

- Comparative Literature, MA (p. 1)
- concentration:
- Medieval Studies (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/>)
- Comparative Literature, PhD (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/comparative-literature-phd/>)
- concentration:
- Medieval Studies (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/>)

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Program in Comparative & World Literature

Chair of Department: Robert A. Rushing

Director of Graduate Studies: Brett Kaplan

Comparative & World Literature website (<http://www.complit.illinois.edu/Welcome.html>)

3080 Foreign Languages Building, 707 South Mathews Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801

(217) 333-4987

Comparative & World Literature email (complit@illinois.edu)

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences website (<https://las.illinois.edu/>)

Admissions

Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>)